

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Gene Green
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Congressman Gene Green Reports

Si le gustaría recibir una copia de este noticiero en español, hágame el favor de escribirme a 256 N. Sam Houston Pkwy E., Ste. 29, Houston, TX 77060. Si es más fácil, también puede llamar a nuestra oficina para recibir el noticiero al (281) 999-5879.

This mailing was prepared, published, and mailed at taxpayer expense.

Combating the Opioid Epidemic

The misuse of and addiction to opioids, including prescription pain relievers, is a serious national crisis that affects public health, as well as the welfare of communities throughout America.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that over 42,000 Americans died from opioid overdoses, including prescription drugs and heroin, in 2016, five times higher than in 1999. While Texas is not at the epicenter of our nation's opioid epidemic, over 2,800 Texans died from opioid-related overdoses in 2016, sixth highest in the country.

In the past two years, Congress has made a concerted effort to provide the necessary policies and resources that will help Americans struggling with opioid addiction and prevent abuse from happening in the first place. As the Ranking Member of the Health Subcommittee of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, which has jurisdiction over federal health policy, I was one of the primary sponsors and leading supporters of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA), the first major federal addiction legislation in 40 years and the most comprehensive effort to address the opioid crisis. CARA authorized over \$180 million annually to support prevention, recovery, overdose reversal, law enforcement and criminal justice reform.

Congress passed the 2018 spending Omnibus with my support last month. One of its key components is a \$3.2 billion funding increase for programs to fight the opioid crisis, including grants for states, local health departments, and local law enforcement agencies.

Currently, the Health Subcommittee is holding hearings on expanding federal programs to expand CARA and stem the tide against opioid abuse. In March, I introduced the Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Centers Act (H.R. 5237) with Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-KY). This legislation would fund designated treatment centers where individuals would receive comprehensive patient-centered care for opioid addiction and other substance abuse disorders.

In addition, our office is currently working on legislation that would allow the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to consider the potential for misuse and abuse when assessing the risks and benefits of controlled substances before approval of a drug. It is important that federal regulators, like the FDA, have the authority to determine whether the potential downsides of a drug, particularly likelihood of abuse and addiction, would outweigh its potential benefits.

I expect Congress will support our bipartisan efforts to help Americans struggling with opioid addiction and halt addiction from starting in the first place. We anticipate our legislation to come to a floor vote before Memorial Day.

23rd Annual Immunization Day

Congressman Green invites students and families to start the school year with a discussion about children's health and health policy at his 23rd Annual Immunization Day. Free immunizations will be available for school-aged children at the following times and locations. Parents must bring their child's shot record with them.

Saturday, August 11, 2018
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

AAMA Learning Center
6001 Gulf Freeway, Building E
Houston, TX 77023

North Shore Senior High School
(Galena Park ISD)
353 North Castlegory
Houston, TX 77049

UT Physicians Community
Health & Wellness Center – Jensen
2620 E. Crosstimbers, Suite 100
Houston, TX 77093

Dear Friend,

I have been honored to represent you in the United States Congress since I first came to Congress in 1992. As someone who grew up in our district, I have made it a priority since my first term to return home on weekends and return your call when you asked to speak with me. I'm grateful for your support, your friendship, and trust in me over the past 25 years. Together, we helped thousands of children receive free back-to-school immunizations and thousands of adults obtain jobs; we helped veterans receive the benefits they earned and increased access to affordable healthcare in our district.

Although this Congress has not been as productive as some, rest assured that I'm fighting for you as I always have. I coordinated with my Republican and Democratic colleagues in the Texas delegation to secure funding for Harvey disaster aid and collaborated with my Energy & Commerce Committee colleagues to introduce the Domestic Maritime Centers of Excellence Act, which will help provide technical education and training programs for the future of our nation's maritime workforce. The bill was signed into law last year.

It has been a pleasure serving you. As I write this last newsletter, I look forward to meeting with you at future events, listening to your concerns, and working with you to better our community. In this newsletter, you will learn more about what is happening in Congress and find the dates of our annual Citizenship Day, Immunization Day, Job Fair, Paying for College Workshop, and Veterans Forum. All event times and locations are listed in the newsletter, and can also be found on our website at <https://green.house.gov>.

If I can ever be of service, please contact me at any of our offices or through our website.

Sincerely,

Gene Green

Gene Green
Member of Congress



Congressman Green standing with State Senator Sylvia Garcia and high school students who received scholarships at his Paying for College Workshop.

Contact Us

North Houston Office	East Houston Office	DC Office	Website
256 N. Sam Houston Pkwy E. Suite 29 Houston, TX 77060 281-999-5879 (tel) 281-999-5716 (fax)	11811 I-10 East Suite 430 Houston, TX 77029 713-330-0761 (tel) 713-330-0807 (fax)	2470 Rayburn HOB Washington, DC 20515 202-225-1688 (tel) 202-225-9903 (fax)	green.house.gov Stay Connected facebook.com/RepGeneGreen Twitter @RepGeneGreen

Veterans Forum

Congressman Gene Green invites veterans to his annual Veterans Forum on Saturday, May 19. During the forum, Congressman Green will discuss new and current federal policies affecting veterans, and local groups and agencies will be available to answer questions about benefits and services.

Saturday, May 19, 2018
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

American Legion Post 521
2221 Preston Avenue
Pasadena, Texas 77503

Honoring Our Veterans

Our country owes its men and women in uniform an enormous debt of gratitude. Making sure they get the care and services they deserve is of utmost importance to me. Although there is still much more we must do to ensure they receive the benefits they have earned, I'm proud to have voted for two bills last year that were signed into law and will expand the G.I. Bill benefits and strengthen accountability at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Last year, Congress passed the Department of Veteran Affairs Accountability Act, which allows for the new Secretary of the VA to immediately remove any VA executive across the country who has failed to provide the care and management required at their facility. Congress also passed additional bills this year to ensure that any employee of the VA who receives a reprimand has that reprimand on a permanently available report when all future promotion or hiring situations are considered.

In addition, to address the VA workforce issues Congress passed the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017. For the first time in the history of the GI Bill, this legislation guarantees veterans a lifetime to use their hard earned educational benefit and new service members will be able to use the benefit throughout their lifetime instead of the 15 year window that was available before.

If you have veteran-related questions, I encourage you to attend our Veterans Forum at American Legion Post 521 in Pasadena on Saturday, May 19 at 10:00 a.m.



Congressman Green at American Legion Harrisburg Post 472 speaking at his Veterans Forum discussing new and current federal policies affecting veterans.

Harvey Recovery

Last August, our district was hit by Hurricane Harvey, one of the most devastating natural disasters to hit the United States. Harvey dropped over 50 inches of rain over a four day period, causing catastrophic flooding in many parts of Houston and Harris County. The City of Houston reported that over 300,000 houses, apartments, and mobile homes were damaged within the city limits.

In response, last fall Congress passed two supplemental disaster bills with my full support that provided \$36 billion for immediate recovery needs. Both bills were crafted with strong, bipartisan support from our state's congressional delegation. The State of Texas has already received over \$5 billion for housing needs from these bills.

More recently, in February, Congress passed the Bipartisan Budget Agreement Act, which included \$89 billion in aid for disaster relief and recovery. While this bill is intended to help pay for Harvey and the other recent natural disasters around the country, there are provisions that are specifically intended for our area. Most notable is \$15 billion for flood control projects which will go far to help prevent catastrophic flooding in the future. February's disaster bill also includes \$28 billion for housing and infrastructure restoration, \$2.7 billion to rebuild schools and help displaced students, and \$608 million for port dredging, which is critical for the Port of Houston.

February's disaster relief bill received support from the Texas Congressional Delegation, both Democrats and Republicans, including our two senators. In April, the Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded Texas more than \$5 billion, including \$62 million for the City of Houston, in community development block grants to support long-term disaster recovery.

If you or somebody you know needs help with disaster recovery, please reach out to our district offices at (281) 999-5879 or (713) 330-0761.

Immigration

Our district is home to one of the largest immigrant populations in the country. Immigrants have been entering Houston and the Gulf Region for over a century. This long history of immigrants and newcomers into our country has brought innovation, entrepreneurship, and hard work that continue to be an integral part of the greatness of Texas.

On September 5, 2017, President Trump announced the rescission of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). In doing so, this decision puts the lives of young immigrants who are protected on hold. Despite multiple calls for bipartisan negotiations, I believe the Administration has decided to pursue its own immigration policies. I have been a vocal supporter of DACA since its creation and I am a co-sponsor of the DREAM Act. Approximately 690,000 immigrants are currently enrolled in the DACA program, including 113,000 from Texas, according to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

DACA recipients are an integral part of our nation and our community. They are employed at Fortune 500 companies, enrolled in our colleges, and are helping our nation grow. The Supreme Court has yet to take up any of these federal court cases. While there has been large support for DACA by many members in Congress, it has yet to be brought to the floor. I will continue to support this legislation in my time in Congress and to press my colleagues to come together to address this important issue.



Congressman Green speaking with constituents during a Harvey flood relief and recovery efforts meeting following Hurricane Harvey in September, 2017.

16th Annual Job Fair

Join Congressman Green at one of his biannual job fairs. Dozens of local businesses will be onsite looking to hire for full-time, part-time, and seasonal positions. Participants should dress professionally and bring their resumes. For more information, please call 281-999-5879.

Wednesday, May 30, 2018
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

San Jacinto College North Campus,
Allied Health & Science Building #17
5800 Uvalde Rd., Houston, Texas 77049

Throughout the President's time in office, he has proposed several policies regarding immigration and border security. These proposals only support anti-immigration policies and continue to embolden the debate that moves away from bipartisan legislation efforts. I have continued to co-sponsor legislation that opposes anti-immigrant agendas, such as the Build Bridges Not Walls Act (H.R. 837), which prohibits the construction of the border wall. I hope that the president and his administration will end policies that I believe vilify immigrants and refugees and instead work with Congress to fix our nation's immigration system. I am a strong supporter of comprehensive immigration reform that respects immigrants, keeps immigrant families together, and protects our nation.

24th Annual Citizenship Day

If you have been a permanent resident for the past five years, this is your chance to become a citizen. This annual event gives eligible lawful permanent residents the opportunity to obtain free assistance with filling out their application for U.S. citizenship.

The event is by appointment only.

Please contact our north office at 281-999-5879 to schedule an appointment.

Saturday, June 23, 2018
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Houston Community College
Northline Campus
8001 Fulton Street
Houston, TX 77022